

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5824

INFO AMCONGEN CAPETOWN

AMCONGEN DURBAN

AMCONGEN JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4608

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SF

SUBJECT: MAJOR SA BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS CALL FOR END TO
JOB RESERVATION

1. PRESS OCT 6-7 REPORTS ANNUAL CONVENTION OF FEDERATED
CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES (FCI) MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG,
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PHASING OUT OF
STATUTORY JOB RESERVATION. ORIGINAL DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD
CALLED FOR GRADUAL PHASE-OUT BUT UNDER URGING OF J E
HOLLOWAY, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES
THAT " TIME FOR GRADUALISM HAS COME TO AN END" CONVENTION
VOTED TO ELIMINATE WORD GRADUAL FROM RESOLUTION. RESOLUTION
URGED EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNIONS TO RE-EXAMINE JOB RESERVATION
WITH A VIEW TO REMOVING IT. FCI IS THE MAJOR ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. IN A SEPARATE INITIATIVE W H BECK, CHAIRMAN OF
MOBIL OIL SA AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION(NDMF) OPENED NDMF'S BUSINESS OUTLOOK
CONFERENCE IN JOHANNESBURG WITH CALL FOR

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ELIMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS AND JOB APARTHEID.

BECK, A SOUTH AFRICAN, URGED THAT (1) ALL RACES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DO BUSINESS IN ANY AREA; (2) ALL RACES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO LIVE AND OWN HOUSES WHERE THEIR EARNING ABILITY ALLOWED THEM TO; (3) BUSINESSES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DECIDE WHOM THEY WISH TO EMPLOY AND PROMOTE REGARDLESS OF RACE; (4) HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS THEMSELVES SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON SEX, DRESS AND COLOUR OF CUSTOMERS. NDMF INCLUDES MANY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S KEY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY FIGURES AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

3. REACTING TO THESE INITIATIVES, STEVE SCHEEPERS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TNCSA LARGEST SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR FEDERATION, STRONGLY SUPPORTED END TO JOB RESERVATION AND WAS QUOTED AS SAYING TUCSA " CONDEMNED JOB RESERVATION AS INDEFENSIBLE, UNETHICAL AND IMMORAL". HE ADDED WHITE WORKERS BECOMING SOFT AND NON-PRODUCTIVE AS RESULT OF PROTECTIVE BARRIER OF LABOR APARTHEID. SCHEEPERS ALSO SUPPORTED BECK'S CALL FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL BARRIERS IN BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS.
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